

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08183 150740Z

16

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 PC-15 IO-13 AGR-20

EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /237 W

----- 090168

R 150327Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7900

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AXEMBASSY DAKAR 15

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NIAMY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

SANAA 03

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS HONG KONG 8183

AFDROUGHT

1. AT A TIME OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN OVER SUB-SAHARA DROUGHT AND PRC DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, PEKING HAS ANNOUNCED CHINESE RED CROES (CRC) DONATIONS TOTALING 40,000 TONS OF GRAIN SINCE APRIL TO SIX STRICKEN AFRICAN NATIONS AND THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (HK 7104; HK 8028). THE CRC HAS DONATED GRAIN TO MAURITANIA (8,000 TONS), MALI (8,000 TONS),

SENEGAL (5,000 TONS), CHAD (4,000 TONS), NIGER 15,000 TONS), UPPER VOLTA (5,000 TONS), AND YEMEN (5,000 TONS). ACCORDING TO THE PRC'S NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, SHIPMENTS FOR MAURITANIA AND NIGER HAVE ARRIVED AND THE REST ARE EITHER IN TRANSIT OR WILL BE MADE SHORTLY. THE SHIPMENT FOR NIGER UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HONG K 08183 150740Z

ARRIVED IN LAGOS ON AUGUST 10 AND WILL BE TRANSSHIPPED BY

TRUCK AND RAIL TO NIGER (NCNA).

2. ALTHOUGH EXTREMELY SMALL, THESE DONATIONS APPEAR AIMED AT COUNTERING ADVERSE PUBLICITY CONCERNING CHINA'S OWN DROUGHT PROBLEMS WHILE IMPROVING THE PRC'S IMAGE AS A BENEFACTOR OF THE THIRD WORLD. GIVEN CHINA'S OWN APPARENT GRAIN SHORTAGE (AS DEMONSTRATED BY MASSIVE PURCHASES OF U.S. WHEAT THIS YEAR) IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE PRC WILL BE A SOURCE OF MORE THAN VERY LIMITED AMOUNTS OF DROUGHT RELIEF AID FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
DEAN

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